

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER

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"I am standing now just behind the curtain, and in full glow of the coming sunset. Behind me are the shadows on the track, before me lies the dark valley and the river. When I mingle with its dark waters I want to cast one lingering look upon a country whose government is of the people, for the people, and by the people."—L. L. Polk, July 14th, 1890.

N. R. P. A.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Senator Foraker says the report of the Spanish Board of Enquiry is "a lie to the living and a libel upon the dead."

The King's Mountain Reformer is much improved in many ways. We congratulate Bro. Allison upon his success.

As war gets nearer the sound of the jingo's voice grows beautifully less. Poor fellow; in the innocence of his heart he imagined that it would not be necessary to flavor his dish of words with a little extract of bullets, swords, uniforms, etc. But it is learned that the dish is not palatable to the public until thus flavored.

How long can workmen be hired to vote against each other and against their own interests? And as long as they can be hired to do this can they not be hired, as the Texas Independent says, "to shoulder muskets and fight each other—and then both sides can be taxed to pay expenses, two dollars for one, with interest besides?"

We are now, if possible, more strongly convinced than ever before that there is fraud and a great deal of it in the Pamlico and Carteret county oyster cases. We believe that ex Judge Allen did not, when he defended the cases, realize that there was fraud. We believe that he does now, and hope that he will join us in fighting them.

War news one day old is of very little interest, partly because the rumors of one day may be denied on the next and partly because the moves of one day are "taken back" in the next. In the language of the newsboys, none but the daily papers are "in it" so far as war news is concerned, and we do not care to disgust our readers with ancient history.

Had we granted belligerent rights to the Cubans three years ago, and then placed them on the same footing with the Spaniards, so far as Uncle Sam is concerned, hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of property and hundreds of thousands of lives would have been saved. Procrastination is oftentimes not only the thief of time, but a murderer as well.

In one of his recent works, Prof. Arlo Bates pays a just tribute to the almost divine patience of the average country school teacher, and says there are teachers in the common schools to day who are only preserved to us because the age of translation to heaven is past. And Prof. Bates is, we believe, from Massachusetts, where school teachers are much better paid than in North Carolina.

A good County Alliance meeting is reported from Alamance. The brethren there are wide awake and enterprising. They propose to have two grand rallies July 4th—one at Union Ridge and one at Friendship. The brethren in other counties might do well to follow the example of Alamance in this matter. Politics will be hot at that time, however, and a sharp lookout must be kept in order that no partisan politics may creep in.

WE WISH SO, TOO.

The Hickory Times-Mercury, one of the advocates of the new scheme to destroy the Alliance, its work and the political good that has grown out of the Alliance, without calling names, regrets that THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER hasn't got such an editor as the late Col. Polk, now.

So do we. It is also a matter of regret that the Times Mercury has not got a great, wise and good editor like Col. Polk. If it had, two of the leading editorial paragraphs in the last issue of that paper would not have been eulogies of the News and Observer and the Charlotte News, both papers being enemies of the Alliance.

If Col. Polk had been editor of the Mercury, one of the editorials advocating an "alliance" with the Democratic party to "carry out Alliance principles" would not have appeared in that paper last week. Col. Polk would have remembered that the last Democratic legislature which convened in this State repealed the charter of the State Alliance, and only partially remedied the matter on second sober thought. Shades of the prophets! Talk about those people carrying out Alliance principles! They would carry them out dead, if at all.

If Col. Polk were editing the Mercury he would not be advocating a devilish, contemptible underhand scheme to fool the members of the People's party into a trap and bind them hand and foot until more snares could be laid, and the only fair and honest election law this State has had since the war destroyed, and the right to cast the ballot of a freeman according to the dictates of his own conscience is likely to be hereafter denied.

If Col. Polk were editor of the Mercury, that paper would not be advocating fusion with a party that only pretends to favor in a positive way one of the essential Alliance demands—that of the free and unlimited coinage of silver—and which has a record of helping to kill every silver bill that has been introduced in the past thirty years, and which, when in full power, during Cleveland's last administration, with a majority in the Senate and House both, really fastened the gold standard upon us, for it is a matter of fact that we never had the full force of the gold standard until the Democrats repealed the purchasing clause of the Sherman law in 1893. True, the Republican administration is now carrying out what Cleveland and his crowd inaugurated, but the ridiculous part of it appears when anybody jumps up and wants to "fuse" with the very folks who fastened the gold standard on the country and started the great panic of 1893-94 95-96-97 and '98 to get silver admitted to coinage again.

If Col. Polk were editing the Mercury, he would not be raising cane about monopolies, &c., and wanting to fuse with the Democrats to break them up, when he would remember that the Democrats in the last legislature—professedly free silver and anti-monopoly men, too—stood almost solidly with Col. Andrews against interfering with the midnight lease of the North Carolina railroad. The next thing you know the Mercury will be telling us that Rothschilds is opposed to usury, and that Pierpont Morgan wants railroad rates reduced one half.

If Col. Polk were editor of the Mercury or Caucasian, either, those papers would not be helping to carry out a policy, started in 1896, to utterly rout and destroy the People's party, the only party that really favors the free coinage of silver and other reforms so dear to the hearts of the people. The destruction of the People's party is inevitable unless the members thereof rise in their might and unhorse a few politicians who are trying to ride it to death, for what purpose they only know, we do not.

In the matter of adherence to and guarding Alliance principles, this paper is ready to compare records with the Mercury or anybody else in the State, and we feel sure that the result of the comparison would be entirely satisfactory to ourselves. If the Democratic party is the place to go to get free coinage of silver and other great reforms, then Spain is the place to go for good government, mercy and peace. Their records are similar.

ENORMOUS FRAUDS.

The Clerk of the Superior Court of Pamlico county in 1893, and the Sheriff of that same county for that same year, and the Solicitor of that district at the same time, together with some others, some of whose names are familiar sounds in most of the State, claim to have issued and served upon 694 people of that same county of Pamlico, warrants or summons to appear at court and show cause why they should not be disposed of certain property called "oyster beds," for which they were said to have claims. The vote for Governor in that county in 1893 was 1308. These papers, said

to have been served upon citizens of that county, number 694, or one for every other voter, and then have 88 warrants left. The strange thing about all this is that four years after all this thing was done there is a bill presented to the State Treasury for \$4 651 40 for cost taxed against the State in these cases; and it is not until a year after this demand is made on the Treasury for this bill of cost in this 694 cases, did the people of Pamlico learn or ever hear anything about it. Is there the barest possibility that anywhere else the people are so dead asleep all the time that one-half the voters in the county could be summoned by the sheriff to appear at court and show cause why they should not surrender their property to the State, and the whole county not be stirred to the highest pitch of excitement! This seems to have been the condition of the people of Pamlico at the time. And not until after the lapse of five years did they know anything about it. We are not much surprised that others should disclaim any knowledge of these frauds, when more than one-half the county were deeply interested and still in absolute ignorance of them.

WHY DID BRYAN VOTE FOR WEAVER?

The true blue Bryan silver Democrat must have been not a little disgusted with the reply of the Shelby Spindle and Loom to the Charlotte Observer's observations regarding the vote Bryan cast for Weaver in 1892, showing as it does how far the so called silver element of the Democratic party will go to reconcile the goldbug element.

In the article referred to the Observer said:

"Mr. Bryan is a fusionist. He supports fusion in his own State, and in 1892 he voted a fusion electoral ticket for General Weaver, the Populist candidate for President."

Doubtless most silver men felt a little prouder of Bryan after reading this. Their admiration of him increased as they saw him taken to task by a goldbug paper for voting for a silver man in 1892 even though he had to go out of his own party to find such a man.

If such was the case, then their faith in the sincerity of the Democratic leaders in the advocacy of free silver must have been badly shaken by reading the reply of the Shelby Spindle Loom which, we believe, is also Democratic advocate of free coinage. It says:

Now why don't he (the editor of the Charlotte Observer) tell us why Mr. Bryan voted for General Weaver? He knows that it was an arrangement entered into by the leaders of the Democratic party to give some of the Western States to Weaver and thus prevent Harrison from winning them, and Mr. Bryan was simply obeying orders from Cleveland, Whitney, Harry & Co., when he voted for Weaver."

Read that again. Is this homage paid to the goldbug element by the silver element in keeping with Democratic campaign speeches? When Bryan is attacked by a goldbug the so called silver papers say: "Oh, don't leave us—Bryan is all right. He went out of the party to vote for a silver man in 1892, but he was simply obeying the orders of the goldbugs."

Such disgusting twaddle is listened to with evident satisfaction by gold standard men, but it also goes far to convince earnest opponents of gold monometallism that the Democratic party is insincere in its professions of friendship for free silver.

Bryan may be all right, but he is keeping some very bad company. Let him refuse the support of goldbugs, if he wishes the undivided support of their opponents.

A CORRECTION.

We now understand the facts with reference to the connection of ex Judge W. R. Allen with the oyster suits to be, that he was not retained in the cases until after judgment against the State in the Superior Courts of Pamlico and Carteret counties, that he had no connection with them before that date; that he had no understanding as to the amount of the fee he was to receive for his appearance in the Supreme Court, but was simply requested to argue the cases upon appeal in the Supreme Court, and knew nothing as to the merits of the cases, as inquiring into them was unnecessary and precluded by the final judgment of the Superior Court.

Having learned all these facts from an authentic source since our editorial connecting Judge Allen with the fraudulent transactions, as we see them, we cheerfully withdraw any statement, or charge, of particeps criminis so far as Judge Allen is concerned, and state with pleasure that we are convinced his connection with the cases was entirely legitimate, and only such as any attorney might assume without being subject to adverse criticism.

INSURANCE IN NORTH CAROLINA.

The report of the Secretary of State, Hon. Cy Thompson, of the Insurance Business in the State for 1897, shows that 113 companies reported The total amount of risks written was \$91 389,010 19, divided as follows: 66 fire and marine companies, \$55,855,204 85; 37 life companies, \$15,283,950 69; and 10 miscellaneous companies \$20,229,855 55.

The total amount of Premiums collected by these companies was \$2,577,069 93, and the total losses incurred, \$1,323,587 72. This shows a difference between the premiums received and losses incurred by these 113 licensed companies, of \$1,253,482 21, or, in other words, our people paid last year \$25 77 for every \$13 23 of actual insurance they received.

The Secretary of States complains that violations of the insurance laws are being encouraged to the detriment of the State and also of the companies and agents which comply with the law, "and these violations" says he "are encouraged, for the most part, not by the ignorant and the vicious, but by the most enterprising, intelligent and thrifty elements of our population." For instance, he adds, "of the 130 cotton mills in North Carolina; only 23, so far as I am informed, are insured in companies licensed and paying taxes on premium receipts in the State. In other words, 107 cotton mills, having protection from the State under our laws, avail themselves of the inducements offered in violation of the law, by unlicensed companies."

Fusion means confusion. Confusion means defeat. The people will no longer be traded out of principle by leaders, and, "as a lamb before his shearers is dumb," open not their mouths. Had the Populist party never fused with either Democratic or Republican parties it would be in vastly better condition. Populists are tired of boss rule; tired of committee rule. They are tired of seeing bosses accuse every one who dares oppose them of being friends of monopoly. They are tired of being told by bosses what kind of men to send to conventions. If the People's Party is to live it must be a party of the people.

CONSERVATISM NEEDED.

We have been permitted to read a letter from a true and tried reformer which in our opinion contains so much sound wisdom and good common sense counsel, which at this time seems to be so much needed and so little heeded, that, notwithstanding he says "this is private," we feel it our duty to quote it freely. He says:

"As a matter of course we want the best possible position for our party. We cannot afford to follow the extreme wing of either branch of the party. We must be conservative. Our platform is broad and ample enough for any right-thinking man to stand on, and even for one to partially stand on if he will go no further. I am opposed to reading people out of the party. Let the people do that at the polls or in the primaries by refusing longer to let unworthy servants represent them. We cannot succeed as a party if we have internal dissensions, which lead to open ruptures and to expressions, publicly made, that reflect against the individuals of our party.

"Common sense and common reason would suggest a different course. If we backbite and curse each other how can we expect others to keep from doing so when we have set the example.

"Charges are made seriously that Harry Skinner is attempting to lead the Populists into the Republican ranks and that Senator Butler is doing what he can to lead the Populists into the Democratic camp. Now I do not believe either statement, although made by some of our own party. I believe the statement is made simply for the purpose of promoting the views of the respective factions. Nothing good can come out of such selfishness. \* \* \*

"I do not endorse radicalism in any party or individual. We have had enough of this already in the State. We want a good conservative administration of State affairs, which will give to the people irrespective of party affiliations the best government the State has ever known. To do this the conservative elements of the State must get together and stand by the platform of our party, with such amendments thereto as conditions may suggest from time to time in this progressive age, always keeping in view the best interests of the people.

"The happiness, contentment and prosperity of the people must be sought after and promoted by all legitimate and proper methods. The noblest ambition any man can have is for the promotion of the happiness and welfare of his fellowman. The mere ascendency of party is nothing in comparison. Then why should we be continually bobbing up with our own selfish desires and wish the determination

to question the honesty and sincerity of every one who does not think along the same lines that we do, and who, for any reason, may question the advisability of the course that we have suggested?

"Is it impossible for men to differ about plans and party policy? I think not, and therefore believe that the utmost consideration ought to be given to all, and that, slowly, a conclusion should be reached covering the best thoughts and ideas of all. We owe this to our party and to the people. Stop cursing one another and give more thought to what we shall do for the best interest of the party, the people, and the State.

"Let us come together on May 17th like men and brothers, having at heart the promotion of the best interest of our party and the people. Let us give up Butlerism and Skinnerism and be the great People's Party, embracing Butler, Skinner, and all who will join with us in the fight for humanity."

SIMPLE FACTS ABOUT SPAIN.

Spain is about four times the size of North Carolina, area, 195 767; area of North Carolina, 52,286 The climate of Spain resembles that of the tropical regions more than does the climate of any other European country, "all natural forces manifesting themselves with singular power—hurricanes, long droughts, violent rains, and sudden changes of temperature." The central plateau is dry, without forests, and is very cold in winter and very hot in summer, but the Cantabrian and Pyrenean mountains are milder and moister, and some of the lands on the coast have a delightful climate. One of the most noticeable features of the country is the lack of forests.

Johnson's Cyclopaedia of 1888 says that "the Castilian occupying the centre of the country . . . is proud, grave, valiant, dignified, liable to fall into intolerance and bigotry and apt to despise everything foreign and new." . . . The Spaniards stand in general civilization far below other European nations; they are ignorant and boast most of that which constitutes their very weakness." From late happenings we venture the assertion that this is as true in 98 as '88.

The Spanish people have spent much of their time in religious wars. In minerals Spain is richer than any other European country, but as yet her resources in this line are undeveloped. Immense coal deposits are found, and salt, gold and many other minerals are mined in some sections, chiefly by foreigners and by foreign capital.

The government is a constitutional monarchy, a constitution having been adopted in 1876. The legislative power is the Cortes. This comprises a congress elected for three years and a senate elected for twelve.

The Hon. John Wanamaker, of Philadelphia, is one of the few great politicians in whom we have not found much to dislike and little to admire. John warned McKinley last spring that something must be done to better the condition of the great common people, and we still hope that he will sometime see the error of his way and join the great reform army. He is a sound business man and believes in the efficacy of advertising. Besides, he is very generous. We learn that in case of war, he will hold open the positions of all his employees, pay their salaries continuously to their families, and a \$1,000 insurance in case of death. This is practical patriotism—a rare kind.

WIDE TIRES.

We learn from an exchange that nearly every legislature that has convened for the past twelve months has been petitioned to enact a law making the use of wide tires on vehicles compulsory, and that New Jersey has a law of this kind and is much pleased with it.

For our part, we are not in favor of a compulsory law of the kind. We are not even in favor of compelling a man to go to heaven. We are, however, in favor of a campaign of education in regard to the use of wide tires, and believe when the people awoke to the necessity of using them and realize their value, no compulsory law will be needed. The people know a good thing when they see it and all that is necessary is to awake them and make them see the beauties of the wide tires.

"How can I get an article in your paper?" asked a correspondent of a western journal. "It all depends on the article you want to go into our paper," replied the editor. "If the article is small in bulk like a hair brush or tea caddy, spread the paper out upon the floor and placing the article in the center, wrap it up by carefully folding the edges over it and tie with a string. This will keep the article from slipping out of the paper. If, on the other hand, the article is a bathtub or a clothes-horse, you would better not try it at all."

LATEST WAR NEWS.

The last thing before going to press, (9 a. m., Monday) we condense latest war news as follows:

Our fleet has blockaded Cuban harbors, and captured several merchant ships, some of which are quite valuable prizes.

Reports that Spanish captured the St. Paris not confirmed, but they did capture a large ship belonging to Arthur Seawall & Co., of Bath Maine, laden with wheat. England proclaimed neutrality and ordered our war ships in her waters to leave in 48 hours. China does the same. This will lead our ships in China waters to the Philippine Island, which belong to Spain. England says Spain declared war when she declared diplomatic negotiations at an end and ordered Minister Woodford to leave their country.

The President will call on governors for 125,000 volunteers to-day. North Carolina will be called on for about 2,500, which we expect to see in camp at Raleigh within a week.

Regular army goes in camp at Chamauga Park, Tenn. The volunteer army will first organize at State capitals and then mobilize at Richmond, Atlanta and perhaps one or two other places.

Havana is not to be bombarded by our fleet until land forces are perfectly organized and ready to co operate, and it is likely that not until then will a terrific naval battle take place. Our fleet is within six or eight miles of Moro Castle, which fired eight ineffectual shots upon discovering that the fleet approached.

General Miles and General Gormer, commander of the Cubans, are arranging to co operate. Cubans in the United States are recruiting as rapidly as possible.

A UNITED PEOPLE.

In connection with the war scare it is gratifying to note the decadence of sectionalism. One would usually suppose that the rumors of war would call to mind the times when North was arrayed against South and brother against brother and fan into life the smoldering embers of sectional hate. But such is not the case. The South has not, we believe, been more lavish in its praise of our own Fitzhugh Lee than have the newspapers and people north of Mason and Dixon's line. Before war was so near the Chicago Plowman said:

"Away Down South in Dixie there is a robust, splendid patriotism. The whole South is willing to pledge its fortune and honor to the defense of the American Republic, if the sacrifice is necessary. We are a united country and partisan enthusiasm should not blind us to the brilliant fact. If the threatened war with Spain does nothing else, it has demonstrated that this 70,000,000 people will stand shoulder to shoulder, with hearts beating against hearts, and with a line of bayonets stretching from the Atlantic to the Pacific and from the St. Lawrence to the Gulf, to preserve America as the land of the free and the home of the brave."

A COSMOPOLITAN TRAMP.

Morgan's organ down in Raleigh of 16th inst. quotes freely from an article by J. K. M. Marshall in a recent issue of the Manufacturers' Record, in which he claims that "the common people of this country are in decidedly better condition now, have more, live better, and are nearer on an equality than ever before. But still," he says, "the country is full of calamity howlers."

Before we accept Mr. Marshall's evidence we wish to know who he is. We will have to accept his own testimony on this point. He says of himself in the article quoted: "I am not a rail-roader; have no interest in any corporation; do not pay a cent of taxes, nor live in my own house, but I can take care of myself."

Safe crackers, burglars, some bank robbers, highway robbers, cutthroats, and even some bloated bondholders, can all, or about all, claim as much for themselves as does this champion of Mr. Morgan quoted in his organ down in Raleigh. He has no abiding place. He pays no taxes, but, mind you, he boasts "I can take care of myself." What is he? How should we classify him!

Another North Carolina daily, of same date as Mr. Morgan's organ referred to above, contains a statement that in one of the most prosperous and well to do counties west of the center of the State. "Already this spring there have been more chattel mortgages recorded than in any previous year." "Nearer on an equality than ever before?" Yes, "on a level" with the bottom. Levelled down according to the policy, the determined policy of Mr. Morgan and all his organs, throughout this country and all the rest of the world. "But still there are calamity howlers." What a sin it must be, not to be satisfied with the conditions which confront us!